

The  
Word of God  
Made  
Plain

Pastor Jim Kirkland



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## **The Word of God Made Plain**

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*All Scriptures are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.*

**Also by the author (with his wife Lyn):**

*Healing For Your Broken Heart*

**Also by Lyn Kirkland**

*The Lighted Path: 101 Practical Lessons Using  
God's Word As Guidance For Parents, Grandparents,  
And Anyone Who Loves Children*



# FOREWORD

This daily devotional is numbered rather than dated, so that anyone who purchases the book can start immediately at the beginning and work through it day by day. It is my hope that this format is more convenient for the reader.

On each page, it is suggested that you begin by reading the Scripture from your Bible that is listed first. The book is written from the perspective that the Word is the final authority, so spending a few brief moments reading it sets the stage for the Lord to bless, and will establish a framework which will make more sense of the comments that follow.

The main text is intended to expand your understanding of the Scripture you have just read, and can lead to spiritual growth.

A “faith profession” is listed on each page. This is intended to be read out loud. Since “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17), your faith will be increased as you speak the profession, and it will be put out into the spiritual world around you.....having an effect there as well.

Lastly, some verses related to the original Scripture and the explanatory text are provided. Taking the time to look these up will be an additional benefit to your daily time with Jesus; will expand your understanding of that day’s subject; and just might serve to trigger further study for you, which would deepen your appreciation of His Word even more.

It has been my pleasure to respond to the Lord’s prompting to write this devotional. It is intended to lift up and glorify the most important person I know: Jesus Christ. HE IS LORD!

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## DEDICATION

This book is lovingly dedicated to my wife Lyn Kirkland, the absolutely lovely creature that the Lord sent to me in response to my prayers for a life partner who would, literally, be Jesus in the flesh.

She is the best half of me.....the love of my life.....the icing on the cake.

I know that He answers prayer.....I can see an answer every day in living, breathing form, and I am ever grateful for that.



DEVOTIONAL #1

## THE FREE GIFT

**Scripture:** Romans 10:9-10

Jesus, the Bible says, died to “save His people from their sins.” In fact, He is called “Savior,” and, since that is so, there must be something to be saved FROM. What is that? It is the penalty for sin, which is eternal death (separation from God).

The Bible says, in several places, that everyone is a sinner, and is subject to the penalty for sin. Jesus died so that you and I and any other individual might escape that penalty. To do so, all we need to do is believe—to accept Jesus’ work at Calvary as our own. Since His death and resurrection paid for sin, and He offers it to every human as a free gift, we need only believe this to receive the free gift of salvation (just as you receive any other gift); and it becomes yours to keep.

I received that gift when I believed.....and I told Him so. But that doesn’t help YOU. Salvation is available for you, but you must receive it for yourself. Each person is asked to receive this great gift for himself/herself. When that happens, it is yours (Romans 10:13).

Remember: belief is the basis; confession (telling Jesus that you believe) is connected to that. Once that is done, salvation is YOURS—forever. It is that simple, and that profound. The greatest gift ever offered to mankind is free for the taking.....IF one will believe.

**Profession:** “I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I receive His gift of salvation right now. Thank you Jesus for saving me and placing me into the family of God.”

**Study Scriptures:** I John 5: 12-13; Romans 10:10-13

## DEVOTIONAL #2

# SAYING IT

**Scripture:** Mark 11:23

What you SAY.....it is the key to your entire spiritual life. As you look at Mark 11:23, notice how many times the words “say” or “saith” occur. Is that just a coincidence? No..... those words were chosen by the Holy Spirit on purpose.....to impress on the reader the importance of SAYING a thing in faith.

The “mountain” referred to in the verse is not a physical dirt and trees-type mountain, but anything in YOUR life that looms over you LIKE a mountain. It could be an illness; an addiction; a financial problem; a relationship issue. Whatever it is, it is HUGE in your life, and you have little hope of removing it.

Jesus says that your mountain can be removed from your life by FAITH in God’s promises, and by SPEAKING them out of your mouth. They must be spoken in faith (“*and shall not doubt in his heart*”). They must be spoken from a believing heart (“*but shall believe...*”). But, with those two things present, you are promised that you will have “whatsoever” you say.

Implied is the fact that you are speaking a promise found in Scripture. That is the basis for any answered prayer. But, if you speak that promise in faith.....and KEEP ON doing so.....you WILL see it come to pass. It is an unconditional promise from the Lord, written down for you in Mark 11:23.

**Faith Profession:** “I believe God’s Word to be THE TRUTH. I have a promise from Him, and I will SAY that verse, and believe it is true, until I SEE it happen with my own two eyes.”

**Study Scriptures:** Matthew 17:20; Hebrews 11:1-6

## DEVOTIONAL #3

# WHEN YOU PRAY

**Scripture:** Mark 11:24

Have you ever paid close attention to what people say as they pray? Have you noticed that many prayers are offered to God in DOUBT?

I have heard prayers that end with the phrase, “if it be thy will.” Although this sounds very respectful, it is, actually, an admission that the one praying doesn’t know if the granting of his/her request is God’s will or not. This is surprising, since God’s will is apparent all over the Bible.

Yes, it is. A few verses actually tell us that they are God’s will. Based on John 6:38, everything Jesus did on earth was, and is, God’s will. And, every promise given to us in Scripture is God’s will.....each promise is a written guarantee from God Himself—it HAS to be His will!!

Armed with the knowledge of His will, the person praying is told, in Mark 11:24, that he/she is to “*believe that ye receive.*” When? When you see the result? NO..... “WHEN YOU PRAY.” If you have a promise from God to begin with, then you CAN believe “when you pray.” If you do that, and hold that belief while the answer is being sent through the spiritual world around us, YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR ANSWER!

You believe WHEN YOU PRAY.....NOT when you see the results. THAT’S how real, effective, answered praying is done.....and YOU can do that!

**Faith Profession:** “I will pray a promise of God into my problem. I will believe for the answer I desire WHEN I PRAY. And God has promised me my answer.”

**Study Scriptures:** I John 5:14-15; Romans 4:13-22

## DEVOTIONAL #4

# PLEASING GOD

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:6

*“Without faith, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God.”* Wow! What a statement! Yet, it is placed in the Bible for everyone to see, because it is absolutely true.

Nothing.....NOTHING.....is done in the spiritual realm that is positive without the application of faith. The formula is: God supplies the Scripture, and the power. We..... humans.....His people.....supply the faith. When these things are combined, they produce an UNSTOPPABLE force that will mow down ANY satanic opposition.

We need to be reminded that we, as God’s children, are part of the process. We have been told over the years that we are minor players on the spiritual stage; that we are little more than worms in God’s sight (and in the devil’s sight, too). But that just is NOT TRUE. You are given, among many other things at salvation, AUTHORITY.....the same authority Jesus earned when he overpowered the devil and his cohorts at Calvary. YOU have that, and you exercise it by speaking in FAITH.....in line with God’s Word.

When you do that, NOTHING will be impossible; and you will have pleased your Heavenly Father.....who will unleash HIS POWER into the situation. That is how YOU PLEASE HIM.....and defeat your spiritual enemies at the same time!

**Faith Profession:** “I am a faith person. I speak the promises of God in faith. I believe God’s Word, and because I do, He is pleased with me, and He unleashes His power on my behalf.”

**Study Scriptures:** Mark 11:23-24; I John 5:4



## DEVOTIONAL #5

# FEAR EXPOSED

**Scripture:** II Timothy 1:7

Fear. It is common to all people.....all of us have experienced it.....all of us are familiar with it. Some of us even seek it out: in thrilling amusement park rides; at the movies; in daredevil stunts. It “gets our juices flowing”.....it is a thrill. Sometimes, fear is hideous; life-threatening; paralyzing. Sometimes it is so prominent in our lives that it literally controls us.

We’ve been taught that it is only an emotion.....that it is inevitable. And that is why today’s Scripture is so important. Read it carefully, and you will discover a startling fact.....fear is a SPIRIT.

That means that, although it may produce an emotion, fear itself is NOT the emotion. It is a spirit that seeks to dominate us.....control us.....and it is hiding behind the false belief that it is purely a physical reaction to circumstance. No.....fear is a spirit. And, because that is true, it CAN BE CONTROLLED. And, it can be controlled by YOU. Only you can control the spirit of fear that seeks to dominate YOU.....by exercising the authority given to you by Jesus Christ (see the study Scriptures).

Notice, too, that God does not send fear. God is the one who deals in FAITH. It is the devil who uses fear, and it is always used for your harm. Refuse it! Chase it away! Don’t be deceived into thinking that fear is natural or inevitable.

**Faith Profession:** “I understand that fear is a spirit, and that I have authority over it. I refuse to give in to fear. I will not let it have a place in my life. I am free of fear in Jesus Name.”

**Study Scriptures:** Ephesians 4:27; I Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7

## DEVOTIONAL #6

# IT WON'T WORK WITHOUT YOU

**Scripture:** I John 5:4

If you pay close attention, you will hear this verse MISQUOTED almost every time it is referred to. (I'm not just throwing rocks here.....I misquoted it regularly for a long time.) And what you'll hear people say is, "*Faith is the victory that overcomes the world.*"

It's interesting, because that misquote is a reflection of a generally accepted doctrine that, unfortunately, is contrary to the Word.

Look at the verse again.....closely. See what it really says? "*...this is the victory that overcomes the world, EVEN OUR FAITH.*" (Emphasis added). So, it is not just faith in general.... or even God's faith.....that overcomes the world. It is OUR faith that does it! Yes! The world is overcome when we apply OUR faith to God's revealed Word.....which releases the power of God into the situation we are dealing with.

I know.....you've been taught that God does everything, and you play no part. SURPRISE!! You are in partnership with Him, and are vital to the faith process. In effect, you are the one who "pulls the trigger," or "flips the light switch." When you do that, something happens; but ONLY when.....or if.....you do your part.

That explains why so many Christians have so little power evident in their lives. Hey.....try it. You just might like the results!

**Faith Profession:** "I am part of the Lord's faith process. I purpose to speak the Word into my situation, which will release God's power to change it for the better."

**Study Scriptures:** Genesis 1; Hebrews 11:6

DEVOTIONAL #7

## THE TOOTHLESS LION

**Scripture:** I Peter 5:8

First Peter 5:8 is a familiar Scripture to many, but, all too often, we neglect to look at it as closely as we ought to do. From this Scripture, many have pictured the devil as a large, ferocious, man-eating lion. Such an animal would be powerful.....too powerful for us to handle: fast; nasty; and dangerous. It's no wonder Christians cower in fear of him!

But.....look at the verse. It doesn't say he IS a lion, but that he appears AS a lion. In other words, he'd LIKE you to believe he's nasty and overpowering, but he IS NOT!! You see, Jesus defeated him during the three days between the crucifixion and the resurrection..... and defeated him SOUNDLY and TOTALLY. So, he is a defeated foe.....it's good to remember that. And.....Jesus has given to you and me that very same victory that He won over the devil. That makes us more powerful than the devil.

That's why it says he walks about AS a roaring lion. Oh, he'll roar.....maybe even rush at you. But, you are commanded to STAND.....don't flinch; don't run; just stare him down. And you will see him RETREAT.....EVERY TIME!

**Faith Profession:** "I have the authority of Jesus Christ to use to resist the devil. I purpose to stand in the face of any attacks, and not to run. The devil is a defeated enemy, and he has no power over me."

**Study Scriptures:** I Peter 5:9; Ephesians 6:10-18; James 4:7

## DEVOTIONAL #8

# HEAVENLY DUCT TAPE

**Scripture:** Luke 1:5-22

Why did this angel strike Zacharias dumb? What had he done to deserve such treatment?

In Luke 1, we're dealing with the early part of the incarnation of Jesus Christ....one of the most important events ever to happen on earth. When the angel discloses a miracle to Zacharias.....that his barren wife was going to bear a child (who would be John the Baptist), Zacharias expresses doubt (see verse 18). We know from previous studies about faith that doubt cancels faith, and therefore short-circuits the action of God.....in this case a miracle birth.

Faith is activated by God's people speaking words of faith, which unleashes God's power. But here, Zacharias is speaking doubt, which would interfere with the process. So, he is rendered speechless so that he can't speak against this work.

The lesson? Watch what you say. If you can't speak in faith, then stick some duct tape over your mouth to prevent you from negating God's work. Okay, maybe not actual duct tape...but Heavenly duct tape. Be careful not to speak against God's work!

**Faith Profession:** "I will speak in line with God's Word, or I will not speak at all."

**Study Scripture:** Mark 11:23-24

## DEFEATING WORRY

**Scripture:** I Peter 5:7

This Scripture tells us to cast all of our care upon Jesus, because He cares for us. It's an easy thing to read, but a little harder to actually do.

You see, we're conditioned to be like the rest of the world, and worry; fret; fuss; lose sleep; and expect the worst. We rationalize that we wouldn't be "caring people" if we didn't do such things. But, when we do worry, we are going directly against God's Will, as revealed in I Peter 5:7.

What is worry, after all? It is just considering something.....imagining the worst about it.... inventing disaster scenarios.....being caught up in the "what if's." Most people carry on this way, and it accomplishes nothing.

This kind of activity is, in reality, the opposite of faith. It is, in truth, the application of fear to your circumstances. Fear is of the devil.....faith is of God.....and God cannot operate for good unless faith is present. So, worry negates God's power in your life, and gives the devil a place from which to operate. It is, perhaps, the worst thing you can do.

Why not apply faith instead? Give your cares to Him. Expect Him to handle them effectively. Think about Scripture instead.....about positive things, and victory things. Believe God's promises, including I Peter 5:7.

**Faith Profession:** "I believe the Lord has my best interests at heart, and that He seeks to work things out for good in my life. I refuse to carry a burden that He is already carrying. I refuse to worry, because it is just a manifestation of fear, and I am a faith person, not a fear person."

**Study Scriptures:** Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 4:27

## DEVOTIONAL # 10

# UNANSWERED PRAYER

**Scripture:** Mark 6:1-6

What!? Jesus was hindered from doing any mighty works? How could that be?? Wasn't He God in the flesh; wasn't He "in control"? Isn't it amazing how, after all these years, Christians still lack a basic understanding of how Jesus works..... how faith works. And that we, as God's people, play a vital part in it all? It couldn't be more apparent than right here in Mark 6.

Jesus comes home to Nazareth, and, on Saturday, begins to teach in the synagogue. The response? "Hey.....isn't this the kid who used to live down the street? Isn't he the carpenter who used to build tables for us? Isn't he just another person from Nazareth?"

Because of this attitude of unbelief, Jesus "could there do no mighty work" (verse 5). Even Jesus Himself was astonished at their level of unbelief. But.....wait a minute. Wasn't He still Jesus? Didn't He still have power? How, then, could His ability to do mighty works have been hindered by mere people!? Why do the people make any difference at all? What do they have to do with it? Jesus can do anything He wants to do.

Really? Maybe you just don't comprehend the system He set up. He DOES have all power. He CAN heal, etc. He IS all-powerful, and sovereign. BUT.....He has set up a system, and He will not operate outside that system, because His integrity depends upon following His own plan. And that system includes, as a vital part of it working, the faith of those who believe in Him. When we show faith (or belief), then His power is released. If faith is not present, then His power lays dormant.....as it does here in Mark 6.

Do you see? Faith is the key that WE turn to start the engine. Faith is the switch the WE flip to complete the circuit and release the flow of electricity to our home.

TURN THE KEY, and you'll see the power flow in YOUR life!!

**Faith Profession:** "I WILL add MY faith to God's promises, and that will release His power into my situation."

**Study Scriptures:** I John 5:4; Mark 11:23; Mark 5:36

## DEVOTIONAL #11

# WHAT IS A “BUCKLER?”

**Scripture:** Psalm 91:4

It says, at the end of Psalm 91:4, “His truth shall be my shield and buckler.”

I’ve noticed that many descriptions of armor in the Bible are those describing first or second century garb.....the kind of thing worn by a Roman foot soldier. Of course, we don’t see this kind of thing much anymore, so some of the terms can be a little vague.

I was riding along in my car with my wife one day recently, listening to some preaching. The speaker was commenting on Psalm 91 (one of the best chapters of Scripture in the Bible) when he mentioned verse 4. He was commenting on another aspect of the verse, but the Holy Spirit suddenly said to my spirit, “Did you notice the mention of a ‘buckler’ there? Do you realize what that is? It has the word ‘buckle’ in it, and you know what a buckle is for, don’t you?”

Suddenly, it was clear. That Old English term “buckler” wasn’t a mystery any more. It is simply a word that describes itself.....it is simple, really. When armor is put on, there needs to be something to hold it tight around you, to keep it from sliding around. That is what a “buckler” is.....and it works just like a belt buckle. It IS a buckle—probably in the back of the armor—which can be closed tightly.

And, do you see what YOUR “buckler” is.....what holds YOU tight as you fight the good fight of faith? It is TRUTH.....found only in God’s Word. Your Christian life is only as good as the amount of the Word that you put into it.....it will hold you secure in life’s storms.

**Faith Profession:** “God’s truth is my shield and buckler. I am held secure in spiritual battle by the amount of the Word that I have placed into myself. And, I will add to that amount every day.”

**Study Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-18

## DEVOTIONAL #12

# SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:11

This verse contains one of the few references to “spiritual circumcision” that I can find in the Bible. We know that circumcision was something commanded by God in the Old Testament to be the sign of His covenant with His chosen people, the children of Israel. Back then, it was a physical act performed on a male child shortly after his birth, and it involved the cutting away of some flesh.

Here in Colossians 2, it is mentioned again, but now in a spiritual context. It is addressed to all Christians, and it says that we are all circumcised with “the circumcision made without hands”.....that is, it is a spiritual, unseen thing. So, it is different in that way, but it is the same as physical circumcision in a more important way. It involves a “cutting away” of something that formerly was a part of you. What is that thing? It is, as we see later in the verse, “the body of the sins of the flesh.”

This is a vital truth, and one we tend to forget. At salvation, we were SEPARATED from the sins of our flesh in a supernatural way. Technically, the sins of our flesh are no longer a part of us. We, of course, can ACT like these sins are still connected to us (and we all too often do that), but, spiritually.....and as far as God is concerned.....they have been “cut away.” We are free from bondage to sin because of this truth. It is our own choice to yield to the devil’s temptations and act like we did before we became God’s child, but WE DON’T HAVE TO!

THAT is one of the best things about our salvation.....we are free!

**Faith Profession:** “I have been supernaturally cut loose from the sins of my flesh. I choose to live in the freedom FROM sin that Jesus has given to me. Thank you, Lord, for this wonderful gift!”

**Study Scriptures:** John 8:32,36; Romans 8:1-2



## DEVOTIONAL #13

# TOTALLY FORGIVEN

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:13

I was sitting in a class one time at a Bible school when a student asked a pretty interesting question. The instructor happened to be the dean of the school, and the question was: “Are all of my sins forgiven at salvation, including those I commit AFTER salvation?”

The dean said nothing for too long a time. After a while, he said: “The sins you commit after you are saved are forgiven, provided that you repent and confess them.” Hmmmmm, I thought. How could that be right? And yet, this man was the DEAN!

Later, after this question had found its way to other staff members of the school, a courageous speaker addressed it one day in Chapel. He pointed out Colossians 2:13—that it plainly says that you are forgiven ALL trespasses. “And,” he added, “ALL means ALL!”

I know what was troubling the dean. Christian leaders are reluctant to teach that all sins are forgiven because they don’t trust people with that information, and think people will see it as a license to sin. BUT.....that doesn’t justify distorting the Word of God. Apparently, God trusts His children with this information. Anyway, weren’t ALL of your sins future when Jesus died for them? Yes.....so He obviously paid for ALL of them.....past, present, and future.

Maybe Jesus trusts His children a little more than that dean. Maybe He wants us to turn away from sin, and lead a life pleasing to Him, because we appreciate what He has done for us. It works for many Christians who turn from sin because of love for our Savior. I think He’d rather have it that way.

**Faith Profession:** “I love Jesus Christ, and I want to live for Him, and bring honor to Him, in every way I can. Thank you, Jesus, for trusting me to love you and serve you with appreciation.”

**Study Scripture:** John 19:23-30

## DEVOTIONAL #14

# BLOTTED OUT

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:14

This verse connects with the previous verse—Colossians 2:13—in verifying that ALL of your sins have been forgiven. It indicates that there was “handwriting of ordinances that was against us”.....and guess who did the handwriting? The devil, who is called “the accuser of the brethren” (Revelation 12:10), spends his time trying to get God to be angry with us, and to mete out punishment. Of course, God is not inclined to do that kind of thing; and Jesus, who is our “advocate” (I John 2:1), counters every accusation with a reminder that our sins are covered by His blood.

I like the use of the term “blotted out.” If our sins were written down on paper, they have been BLOTTED OUT.....completely removed! There is no evidence left that they even existed! And, for the believer, that is exactly the case. (Remember...ALL of your sins were in the future when Jesus died for them.)

In other Scriptures, we are told that He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12); and that “their sins and iniquities I will remember no more” (Hebrews 10:17).

Jesus never does a thing incompletely. All that He does is done to perfection. And so it is with the payment for your sin: “blotted out;” “took it out of the way;” “remembered no more;” “removed as far as the east is from the west.”

Take comfort in these truths. They are not a license to sin, but a treasured, precious truth of God’s Word.

**Faith Profession:** “My sins have been forgiven. They have been blotted out completely. I am free to serve my Lord wholly and without guilt or shame, and I thank God for that fact.”

**Study Scriptures:** Hebrews 10:16-17; Revelation 12:10

## DEVOTIONAL #15

# BLOWN TO BITS!!

**Scripture:** Colossians 2:15

Here is one of the most important Scriptures in all the Bible, because it gives us a revelation of our true place with God, and in relation to the devil. Notice first that Jesus spoiled “principalities and powers.” Do you remember where you have seen that term before? Yes, in Ephesians 6 where it describes the whole armor of God. Principalities and powers are the devil’s helpers.....his accomplices in his devious dealings with mankind.

Notice, too, the word “spoiled.” In the original language in which your Bible was written, the root word translated “spoiled” here is the word from which we get our English word “dynamite.” So, “spoiled” is correct, but may not be a strong enough term. More to the point would be “blown up,” or “blown to bits”! When Jesus finished his work on the Cross, and during the three days afterward, the devil and his helpers had been defeated so completely that they are said to be “blown to bits”!

It also says He made a “show of them openly,” meaning that He rose from the dead. He rose victorious from the depths of Hell itself, having defeated satan, the grave, death, Hell, and sin.....so totally that they are said to be DESTROYED.

Now, when you think that the devil is too strong for you or too smart for you.....just think of this verse. He is not only defeated, but destroyed—blown to bits, and that victory is given to YOU by the precious, loving Savior who earned it for you. Praise God! We have the victory, and the authority!!

**Faith Profession:** “I have victory over the devil and his forces of darkness because Jesus blew them up, and gave His victory to me. They no longer have any power over me.”

**Study Scriptures:** Ephesians 4:7-10; Ephesians 1:15-23

## DEVOTIONAL #16

# JESUS IS LORD

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:11

There will come a time, the Bible says, when every knee will bow to the Lord Jesus—“of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth (Philippians 2:10), and that EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS that Jesus is Lord.

That wonderful Scripture gives me a word picture in my mind. It is commonly believed that Philippians 2:11 is describing some future event, possibly taking place in Heaven itself. However, I see no indication of that in the verse. So, I see each demon and devil being forced, by the authority of Scripture, to bow down EVERY TIME THAT PHRASE IS UTTERED! Isn't that a marvelous thought?!

When I sense the presence of darkness around me, which sometimes happens as I travel through a particular area in a car, for example, I like to begin repeating this phrase out loud: “Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord.” In my mind's eye, I can see these creatures of darkness scowling and complaining, but nevertheless obeying the authority of Scripture, bowing their knee.....EVERY TIME this phrase is spoken. It gives me great delight to do this! I love to think of them having to bow, though it pains them to do so.

Good. I don't think it will hurt to remind them of who really is in command. Someday, we may get to see this happen with our own eyes, and one pair of knees that will bow will belong to the devil himself. What a sight that will be! Until then, join me in speaking this phrase often, while thinking of them bowing—reluctantly, but SURELY.

**Faith Profession:** “Jesus is Lord.....over all things.....over my life.....over all the power of the enemy. JESUS IS LORD.”

**Study Scripture:** Colossians 2:10-15

## FLIP THE SWITCH

**Scripture:** I John 5:4

What would you say if someone came up to you with this complaint: “My house is dark every night! I called the electric company to put the lights on, but they didn’t respond. Do you suppose I’m just not destined to have lights? Perhaps there is some lesson for me to learn from being in the dark. I know the electric company COULD give me light; but I still don’t have any. I guess they know best.”

Pretty silly, huh? Why sit in the dark, and blame the electric company, when YOU can simply flip the light switch?

Did you know that most Christians operate in exactly this same way with prayer? Maybe YOU operate this way. People pray, then get no result.....and they blame God, or rationalize that He has some unknown reason for withholding their answer. They know the power is there.....that He COULD answer. They know that He hears. But they can’t figure out why He remains silent.

Well, it’s the exact same reason that the guy didn’t have lights. Because answered prayer is a cooperative effort. You play a part, and God plays a part. God supplies the power and the answer.....you supply the faith. You see, supplying the faith is like flipping the switch in your house to get lights. It’s a simple little thing, but there are no lights unless you do it.

God gives you promises in His Word. They are the unconditional truth. If you’ll take one, and apply it to your problem, and have faith in Him making it so, then you’ve flipped the switch.....and you’ll see your prayer answered. The switch is there in your Bible.....all you have to do is use it. If you do YOUR part, God will certainly do His.

**Faith Profession:** “I will not blame God for my own failure to follow His simple system for answered prayer. I will exercise faith in His promises, which will release His power into my situation, and cause it to change.”

**Study Scriptures:** Mark 11:23-24; Philippians 4:19

## DEVOTIONAL #18

# LESSONS FROM AN AIRPLANE WING

**Scripture:** Mark 4:26-27

I don't know about you, but, for many years, I rode on airplanes to various places without having the slightest idea how or why a large metal structure could get off the ground and fly through the air. It just did, and I accepted that by faith. It sure seems unlikely, though. How can something so big and heavy fly into the air?!

Well, the answer to that is found in the shape of the wing. If you could look at an airplane wing from the side, you'd see that the bottom is flat, but the top is curved—rounded over the top. When the plane moves forward, the air moving over the top travels slower than the air moving underneath. This causes a difference in pressure, which is enough to lift the plane upward. In fact, this force is called LIFT.

Now, whether you understand that science or not, you can get on a plane and fly. You don't need to understand it to have it work for you. And that is exactly how it is with faith. Many people complain that they don't understand why faith would work....how can just believing in something that you can't see make any difference? Yet, it does work. It works so well that some of us have come to rely on it.

Do we need to understand it in detail? NO.....it works whether you understand it or not.....just like an airplane wing. The Bible says as much in Mark 4—it likens the process to seed growing. We may not understand all of the science behind that, either, but we know it works.

Take a lesson from an airplane wing.....believe, and you will see!

**Faith Profession:** “I don't have to know why faith works. I am only asked to believe my Lord, who will make it work FOR me.....and I can do that!”

**Study Scripture:** Mark 11:26-29

## CHASTENING

**Scripture:** Hebrews 12:6

I grew up as a Christian in a traditional, denominational church, so I have firsthand experience in the common interpretation of the verses in Hebrews which deal with chastening. The teaching? When you do something wrong, or when God just feels like making changes in you, unpleasant things happen. Things like: sickness; financial problems; family problems; trouble of any kind, really. The idea is that God is “chastening” you (hammering you; inflicting punishment on you) for your own good. “It might hurt now, but you’ll be better off in the long run,” they say.

This kind of interpretation of Hebrews 12:6 is consistent with the traditional belief about God Himself.....that He is somewhat strict; not easy to please; hard on you when you need correction.

What a sad testimony, especially since it goes against the teaching of Hebrews 12:6..... and even goes against the definition of the word “chasten.” In the Greek from which Hebrews was translated, “chasten” means TO TRAIN, or TO EDUCATE. This is how you are to deal with your own children: you TRAIN them—you don’t inflict them with cancer, or give them heartache to develop them.

Our God is consistent, and He is kind. As is usually the case, He “trains” through use of His Word. Therefore, He “chastens” the same way.....through his Word. Didn’t you ever have the Word bring you to repentance? Haven’t you ever felt convicted by some Scripture? Okay, then you have known God’s chastening. It works for those who truly love Him, and who treasure their relationship with Him.

The Lord Jesus would never put sickness on you.....that would put Him in partnership with the devil! No, He uses His Word to “train and educate” (chasten). It is not pleasant, but it does work..... in a loving way.

**Faith Profession:** “I understand that my Lord chastens me with His Word, not with physical circumstances. He is trying to develop me spiritually, so He uses a spiritual book to accomplish that purpose.”

**Study Scriptures:** Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 12:5-11

## DEVOTIONAL #20

# YOUR CONFESSION

**Scripture:** Hebrews 4:14

The word translated “profession” here in Hebrews 4 is translated elsewhere in your Bible as “confession.” Both words have the same meaning. A literal translation of the Greek word that is translated “profession” would be “saying the same thing.” So, your profession, or confession, is “saying the same thing.”

Okay.....saying the same thing as who? Well, there are two answers to that. First of all, you SHOULD be saying the same thing as the Lord says. That is, your conversation to the world—the things you SAY—should be in agreement with Scripture. Specifically, that should apply to your prayer life. In prayer, you SHOULD be speaking in line with God’s will.....so you SHOULD be praying one or more promises from the Word.

If you pray a written promise, then you are obviously in agreement with the one who authored the promise. Your profession, or confession, would be “saying the same thing as God says”.....which will lead to answered prayer.

Secondly, your profession ought to agree with YOU. If you speak in line with Scripture today, but tomorrow you complain that you feel bad, that your prayer hasn’t been answered, that you don’t SEE anything yet.....then you have NOT spoken in agreement with yourself. Your first confession was okay, but your second confession nullified it.

It isn’t hard to see why so many prayers remain unanswered. You might think that what you say, or how you say it, doesn’t matter. But, in the spiritual realm, it is ALL that matters. Every time you speak, spiritual beings—good and bad—are listening. Your words give them freedom to move in your life. Which ones are you activating??

**Faith Profession:** “I purpose to focus on what I say, and how I say it. I will work to speak in line with God’s Word, and the principles in it. I will work to change my speech patterns so that I’m saying the same thing as the Lord.”

**Study Scriptures:** Hebrews 3:1; Philippians 4:8



## DEVOTIONAL #21

# REMOVING OBSTACLES

**Scripture:** Mark 5:24-27

The woman with the issue of blood had suffered with this disease for twelve years. According to the account in God's Word, she had spent all of her money on doctors, but was no closer to healing than when she started.

This woman was desperate. Certain traditions stood between her and Jesus: women with this ailment were not permitted to mingle with crowds; women in ancient Israel were often not permitted to be in crowds of men at all. So, a number of things stood between this woman and her healing. She was going to have to overcome some obstacles, including tradition and fear, to achieve her goal. She was going to have to step out into an area that not many people dared to enter.

But....notice that she didn't pray to God to have Him overcome these things FOR her. Apparently she realized that certain obstacles are only overcome if we do something about them ourselves. She realized that, to receive her healing, SHE would have some things to do, and God would supply the miracle. So, she went into the crowd, determined to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. When she did, she was instantly healed!

You, too, are expected to overcome some obstacles in the way of your miracle. The Lord will not do everything for you. It is a partnership, and YOU have a part to play if you want to see that miracle.....or that blessing.....or that answered prayer.

Receiving from God is a two-way street. Once you do your part—the faith part—He will supply the power to make the miracle a reality.

**Faith Profession:** “I will exercise faith in God's promises; and I will wait in certainty that the answer will come. For His part, my God will supply the power that will cause my faith to turn to sight.”

**Study Scripture:** Mark 5:22-42

## CREATION 3

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:9-19

On day three, dry land is created. In verse 11, we are introduced to the concept of “seed,” which is going to be one of the central themes in the Bible. Notice that seed yields fruit “after his kind” in every single case. We will see this same thing in verses 21, 24, and 25. God establishes this principle right away, because of its importance in His overall plan. Simply put, oak trees produce oak trees; corn seeds produce corn; cows produce cows. Now, we know that this principle can be altered somewhat by man, but, left to itself, seed reproduces “after his kind.”

Later on, in the New Testament, humans are going to be able to produce spiritual seed. This seed....like any seed....will produce after his kind. That is, good spiritual seed will produce good spiritual results. Bad spiritual seed will produce bad results. Good spiritual seed is nourished by FAITH, and that is essential to producing sound, valuable results in a life. (See Matthew 7:17-18.)

On the fourth day, the sun and moon are created, and their stated purpose is to divide the day from the night; to determine the seasons of the year; and to permit time to be counted. I like the statement in verse 16: “...and He made the stars also.” It’s almost as if He did that as an afterthought. Billions of stars, filling unknown numbers of galaxies.... mentioned in an offhand manner, as if it was nothing!

Lastly, we’re told that light is to be divided from darkness. As it is intended in the physical, so it is in the spiritual. Light is to remain separate from darkness, and there is to be no merging or blending of the two—under any circumstances. Light stands alone. Light always dominates darkness, as you can see when you turn on a lamp in a dark room. Light needs no assistance, because it is perfect in itself.

Jesus is the Light.

**Faith Profession:** “I am a child of Light, and I am given pure spiritual seed from God’s Word. I will not mix it with any form of darkness, so that it might reproduce after his kind.”

**Study Scriptures:** Genesis 8:22; I Peter 1:23

## CREATION 4

**Scripture:** Genesis 1:26-29

We have moved ahead to Day 6 and the creation of man. Notice with me, in verse 26, that God refers to Himself in the plural. Why? Because He is a trinity....three unique persons, yet one entity. It is important to note that man is the only creation who is made in God's image (likeness). You know what an image is....you look at one every time you gaze into a mirror. It is an exact replica, and that is how mankind is created.

In verse 28, we read the first thing God spoke to man: He blessed them (God refers to Adam in the plural because he really is two persons. Eve will be created from Adam's body). This blessing is also very important, because it is this that satan steals from man. In his hands, of course, it becomes a curse. But God's original purpose is to bless man. The Plan of Redemption is all about God restoring this blessing to man.

Lastly, man is given two vitally important things here: dominion (verse 26), and seed (verse 29). In Genesis 3, dominion is stolen, and the seed is corrupted through sin. What you ought to know (but few Christians do), is that, when you get saved, you become a new creature (creation) in Christ, which means, among other things, that this dominion and pure seed are RESTORED to you. Essentially, you are restored, spiritually, to exactly the same place that Adam enjoyed in Eden.

Romans 8 says that this is your inheritance....but you don't live in the reality of it unless you receive it through faith.....EXACTLY as you received salvation. You are made in God's very image. You are important to Him. You are His partner in the spiritual work here on Earth. But He will not force this on you.....you must receive it for yourself.

**Faith Profession:** "I am made in the image of the Living God. When I was born again, this image....along with dominion and pure seed.....were restored to me. I am valuable and important to God Almighty!!"

**Study Scriptures:** II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:16-17

DEVOTIONAL # 70

## ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

**Scripture:** Mark 10:27

I'd like you to read the text Scripture again — out loud if you can. Perhaps you might be willing to repeat it every day from now on. Reading it is good.....saying it is better, because Romans 10:17 says that “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” So, when you say a Scripture out loud, you increase your faith (because you hear it), and you activate angels on your own behalf (see Psalm 103:20).

Consider this wonderful truth: with God, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

Do you have unpaid bills? Have you lost your job, or have you been forced to accept a cut in pay? Is a loved one sick or injured? Are you sick or injured? Is it cancer, or heart disease, or diabetes, or some other seemingly insurmountable illness?

Has a friend betrayed you? Has your trusted spouse betrayed you? Are you alone and without hope? Has your heart been so badly broken that you think the shattered pieces can never be put back into place? Is some besetting sin getting the best of you all too often? Are you addicted to something in this world?

Okay.....these are legitimate problems, and they're big ones. You alone might not be able to find the solution. But, I have good news for you. Jesus has the answer, and He's more than willing to share it with you. Not only does He answer prayer, but He can (and has) solved EVERY problem that has come up, or ever will.

Your part? Just believe, and you will see. Believe FIRST, and you will see..... that is the catch (if you want to call it that). If you can do that.....and YOU CAN.....then you will see your problem solved by the God to whom ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

**Faith Profession:** “I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe the Word. I believe that all things are possible with God, and that He will answer my prayer of faith.”

**Study Scriptures:** Mark 9:23; John 11:40, 43-44

## DEVOTIONAL # 71

# BLIND BARTIMAEUS

**Scripture:** Mark 10:46-52

Okay.....I guess this installment would more accurately be called “formerly” blind Bartimaeus, because, after meeting Jesus, he was never blind again.

The fame of Jesus had spread so widely that even beggars had heard of Him. Here is a blind man.....unable to work, and so reduced to a life of begging.....sitting along the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Once he realized that Jesus was near, he began to cry out.....we’d say that he was yelling at the top of his voice! He was so loud that some in the group tried to get him to quiet down. His response? He yelled even louder!

Why? What is motivating him? It is the possibility of HEALING.....being free of this curse of blindness. He believed.....deep within his heart.....that Jesus could do this. And, he was willing to do ANYTHING to get Jesus’ attention.

In verse 49, Jesus stops, and commands that this man be brought nearer. When he comes to Jesus, he is asked what Jesus can do for him. (What? Doesn’t Jesus know he’s blind? Didn’t He see him stagger over to him? Yes. But Jesus knows the importance of WORDS. He asks because He wants Bartimaeus to SAY it, because speaking the word is part of the faith process.)

In verse 51, Bartimaeus speaks his request, and immediately can see!! Look at what Jesus says in verse 52: “...thy faith hath made thee whole.” More specifically, Bartimaeus’s faith released Jesus’ power, and the combination caused healing. It has worked that same way ever since then, and will work that same way for you.

Jesus provides the supernatural power, but it is not released until WE act (speak out) in faith.

**Faith Profession:** “I understand how this works now. The power is always there, but it is not released into my situation until I provide the faith. This is how the faith process works, and it works every time.”

**Study Scriptures:** I John 5:4; Romans 4:17; I Corinthians 1:28

DEVOTIONAL # 90

## JESUS IS TEMPTED 3

**Scripture:** Luke 4:2-13

I'd like to mention two more things about this wonderful passage of Scripture. Did you notice that these three temptations match Satan's three methods found in I John 2:16? Temptation # 1 is the lust of the flesh. Temptation # 2 is the lust of the eyes. Temptation # 3 is the pride of life. Sadly, the devil has only these three methods, and uses them over and over. You'd think humans would catch on and be more effective in deflecting these attempts.

Lastly, I want to mention the depth of deceit in these temptations, because they go much deeper than the obvious. Each has a connection to the Second Coming of Christ. In Revelation 12:6-14, the Lord WILL make bread in the wilderness! In Revelation 11:15, Jesus WILL rule the kingdoms of the earth! In Revelation 19:11, Jesus WILL come down from the sky!

So, these temptations are not simply to get Jesus to make a mistake, or supply His flesh..... but they go to the heart of God's plan, and are an attempt to break Scripture! That is, Jesus is being tempted to do some things that ARE Scriptural.....but to do them in the WRONG TIME FRAME.....which would violate Scriptural principle, and give Satan a way to accuse the Bible of being wrong.

The devil is sneaky, subtle, tricky. There are usually many levels to what he is doing. You can ALWAYS defeat him with your knowledge of Scripture, and your willingness to speak it at him, as Jesus did. You can "count it all joy" when you are tempted (as it says in James 1:2) because each temptation is another opportunity to defeat the devil, and solidify his true calling.....which is to be a FAILURE.

**Faith Profession:** "The devil is subtle and deceitful, but the Word of God defeats him EVERY TIME. Jesus is LORD!"

**Study Scriptures:** James 1:2; I John 2:16; Revelation 20:10

## YOU HAVE POWER!

**Scripture:** Luke: 10:17-19

In Luke 10, Jesus has a following of disciples that numbers far more than the twelve who remained with Him to the Last Supper. In fact, large crowds followed Him for much of His earthly ministry. In this case, there are 70 who are sent out to minister to the people of Israel. (They had spent time with Him; heard His words; and were now applying them in a practical way.)

These 70 disciples return in verse 17, and they do so with JOY! They have had success, and are pleased! In fact, they comment that "...even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." Jesus is not surprised by this statement. In fact, He elaborates on it in verse 19, saying that He had given to them.....mere humans like you and me.....power over ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, and that nothing would (or could) hurt them.

Notice: they exercised this power "through His name" (verse 17). Obviously, flesh and blood people like us have no power of our own over spiritual beings. But, of course, we are not on our own.....not after we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior!

I think I know what you've been taught.....that you're nothing but a lowly worm, not worthy.....only a sinner saved by grace. But, that's just the point! You are no longer "only a sinner." You are now a child of God.....a born again believer.....a disciple of Jesus Christ! And, He has given YOU the same authority over devils (and THE devil) that these seventy folks had!

Read the study Scriptures, and you'll see that it is true. Satan has no power over you, because Jesus has given you.....freely at your salvation.....HIS power, and HIS authority..... to use against the devil. And it WORKS!

**Faith Profession:** "I am God's child, bought with the sinless blood of Christ. I have the authority of Jesus Christ, given to me freely. I may use it any time I choose to get victory over the devil."

**Study Scriptures:** Ephesians 4:27; I Peter 5:9; James 4:7; Philippians 2:10